

REMARKS

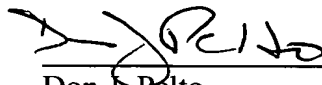
The foregoing amendments to the specification are made to claim priority to the earlier pending US patent application. Claims 1-203 have been cancelled in this Amendment without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter thereof. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications directed to the subject matter of any claim cancelled for any reason.

New claims 204-323 are presented for examination. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification. It is submitted that the new claims introduce no new matter and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to the undersigned's Deposit Account, No. 50-1067. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to the undersigned's Deposit Account, No. 50-1067.

Respectfully submitted,

24 March 2004



Don J. Pelto
Reg. No. 33,754

Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP
1735 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 628-1700
Facsimile: (202) 331-1024